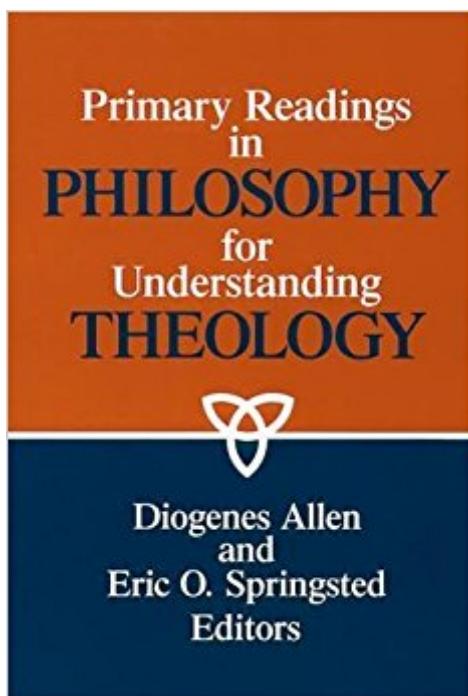


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# Primary Readings In Philosophy For Understanding Theology



## **Synopsis**

Knowledge of key philosophic terms or concepts is vital to the understanding of many issues in Christian theology. Diogenes Allen's book *Philosophy for Understanding Theology* explores such terms and concepts and their relationship to theology. This new anthology, edited by Allen and Eric Springsted, provides primary texts undergirding that earlier work. The writings included here deal with philosophical issues crucial to the understanding of theology and include responses to those questions from Plato to the present. Whether used alone or as a companion volume, this new reader is a valuable resource for theological studies.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press (November 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0664252087

ISBN-13: 978-0664252083

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #190,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Reference #163 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Systematic #242 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > History > Historical Theology

## **Customer Reviews**

Diogenes Allen is Stuart Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. He is the author of a number of books including *Christian Belief in a Postmodern World: The Full Wealth of Conviction*. Eric O. Springsted is the author of *The Act of Faith: Christian Faith and the Moral Self* and *Simone Weil and the Suffering of Love*, and editor of *Spirituality and Theology*.

Definitely a college/graduate level read. If you're really into studying Philosophy & Theology, this is for you. Otherwise you may not like it. a little more challenging of a read but highly educational and informational

It became apparent to me very quickly that the translations of the original writings of most of the

philosophers cited are very convoluted and challenging to decipher. The saving grace was the excellent introduction written lucidly so that I could get a handle on the philosophical musings. It's too bad that many of the old philosophers did not seem to know how to write simply and clearly! What would have aided my understanding of the book would have been additional explanatory notes by the editors strewn throughout the dense philosophical texts.

Came on time. Now to figure out what it's saying... ;)

I had to read this for school.

Book I needed for class!

This book was required for a graduate course I am taking in philosophy/theology. Allen is one of the most respected scholars in this field, and this text reflects the reasons why that is so.

Meant to be a selected reading companion to *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Second Edition, this book is very much optional. I'm a big proponent of going to the original sources when you want to fully understand a topic, but I have to confess: after reading mainly apologetic and theological works, I found long stretches of many of these philosophers to be tedious. The translations were fine, I just think it's a case of "it's not you, it's me." The approach I took, and I think it was the correct one, was to read a chapter of the main work and then drop back to this book and read the works of the philosophers the authors had just covered. I think if I had read the works first, I would have not gotten as much out of this book as I did. I also think if you wait and read the main work in full before going to this book, you run the risk of information overload in trying to connect the teaching to the philosopher's writings. The reason I'm giving this book 3 stars is that I don't think you need it to fully comprehend Allen and Springsted's main work. It helps, but not overwhelming so, and honestly it's a bit pricey - more expensive than the author's main work. I think you can get by with pulling up some original sources and summaries of the philosophers on the web. However, if your interest level is strong and you like reading hard copy books, then this may help you.

This is a fabulous text paired with its companion volume, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*. The editors' selections of text well highlight and enrich the material covered in the other text. These two texts are a must own for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of the philosophical

roots and contexts of theology.

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